



UNITED



SEAMEN'S



SERVICE

All in the day's work!

I ask you to think of United Seamen's Service in terms of the people's debt to the men who took our ships across in the darkest hours of the war.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

They have brought us our lifeblood and they have paid for it with some of their own. I saw them bombed off Corregidor and more recently I have seen the same thing happen in ports in this area. When their ships were not blown out from under them by bombs and torpedoes, they have delivered their cargoes to us who needed them so badly.

General Douglas MacArthur

The Merchant Marine Service has repeatedly proved its right to be considered as an integral part of our fighting team. Its efforts have contributed in great part to our success. Well done.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz

UNITED SEAMEN'S SERVICE, INC.

39 BROADWAY

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NEW YORK 6, N. Y.

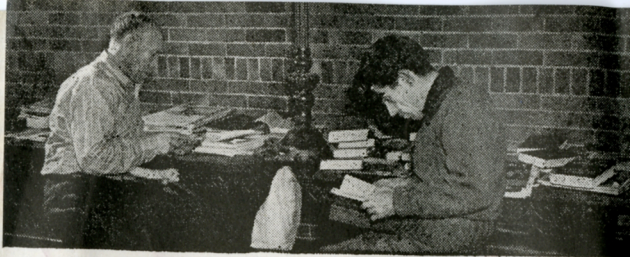
Long overdue!

AFTER months at sea, they come ashore. Young men, older men, men from just around the corner on your street.

They delivered another cargo of planes, tanks, guns, ammunition, fuel, blood plasma, food and all essential materials of war without which your son, your husband in the armed forces, could not have survived.

These merchant seamen come ashore eager to forget, in the few days before shipping out again, the constant threat of the stealthy torpedo, the lurking mine, the ominous silence of blacked-out convoys, the nerve-wracking depth charges — relieved that they are on terra firma and not adrift on a life raft tortured by hunger, thirst and the raging seas.

Not being in uniform, they were not at ease in clubs set up for uniformed men. Strangers in the United States ports to which they returned; unable to make ad-



TORPEDOES BE DAMNED!

vance reservations, they could not find overnight accommodations in war-swollen cities. Often, they slept on park benches or in hallways or noisome flop-houses. In many instances they were receiving medical treatment; always, they needed rest and time to rally their frayed nerves. Mostly, only the waterfront dives yielded an ungrudging welcome.

A CRISIS MET

Up to September, 1942, the human needs of merchant seamen who volunteered to face an enemy desperately determined to cut our supply lines were, for the most part, overlooked. These men for whom the percentage of casualties ran higher than for the armed forces and who had passed up chances for safer berths in war plants and ship yards at higher pay, were left to shift as best they could between their tasks on the Bridge of Ships.

In the midst of an urgent necessity to man hundreds of ships coming off the



FORGETTING IT IN WORK

ways, there was the danger of ebbing morale. Neglect of the needs of our merchant seamen threatened to interrupt the flow of supplies so vital to victory.

To meet this crisis United Seamen's Service was organized to give merchant seamen facilities equivalent to those enjoyed by the armed forces. Rear Admiral Emory S. Land, War Shipping Administrator, and chairman of the Maritime Commission, called together ship operators, ship builders, maritime union leaders and public-spirited citizens, to work together in launching this essential work. USS was chartered in September, 1942, as a non-profit corporation to provide, on a world scale, various necessary services for the men of the merchant marine.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

In cooperation with the War Shipping Administration, USS went into action immediately and today, thanks to the millions of Americans contributing to the National War Fund, there are 105 facilities



WELCOME TO USS

on the six continents of the world for the men who man the lifelines of victory. All of them are homes away from home.

For those in need of rest after torpedoings or after weeks adrift on life rafts, or for those whose jangled nerves need strengthening after long and fatiguing convoy trips, there are seven centers on restful country estates accessible to ports on the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts. Here thousands of seamen already have been cared for and nearly 90 percent of those who had spent a little time in these rest centers were strengthened and made fit for delivering essential supplies to the fighting fronts.

They no longer sleep in flophouses or on park benches. In principal ports in the United States and in key ports on the six continents, USS maintains for them residence clubs with comfortable, clean beds, baths, dining and lounging facilities. Overnight accommodations and food are available to them at minimum cost.



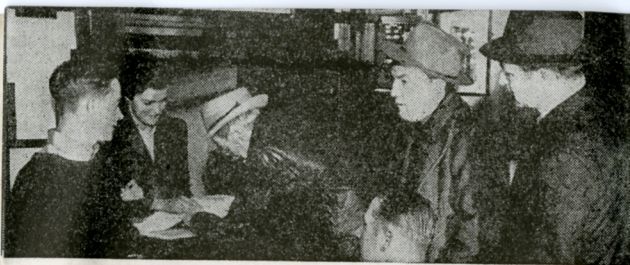
U.S. NAVY SURVIVORS AT ALGIERS

PERSONAL SERVICE

Today you'll find our merchant seamen in USS recreation clubs for companionship, entertainment and diversion.

The American public is now conscious of the vital war role of merchant seamen. People demand that crews of merchant ships have recognition and benefits comparable to those of the uniformed forces; that the health and welfare of the men in the service be safeguarded; that their morale be sustained and reinforced.

Through a Personal Service Division maintained by USS, seamen are helped with personal problems. Unsolved, a personal difficulty may injure a seaman's effectiveness as a crew member. Further, it may make him a distraught and agitated person detrimental to the ship's morale. Among the problems handled by this Personal Service Division are: replacing lost papers; locating friends; obtaining shoe ration coupons; tiding a seaman over in



WELCOME AT GLASGOW

emergencies; looking after his family while he is at sea. Against a background of war tragedies, putting a man in touch with a missing friend may seem a small matter, but if it sends a man off on his voyage in a serene state of mind, it is deemed useful by USS and its sponsors. Since its inception in 1942, the USS Personal Service Division has provided 109,521 individual services for 59,216 merchant seamen and their families.

The Medical Division, operated jointly by USS and the War Shipping Administration, checks closely many men discharged from the marine hospitals, takes care of them during their convalescence and sees to it that they suffer no neglect. These men are given special services in the way of clothing, shelter and meals. Thousands of others are referred to marine hospitals and clinics for treatment. The Medical Division gave 29,383 consultations on medical and personal problems to seamen last year. All survivors are cared for in foreign ports and met and



GOOD AMERICAN COFFEE

cared for on their arrival in the United States by this department.

But no statistics can adequately portray the relative worth of facilities and services unless evaluated against the background of varyingly difficult conditions. In different ways, these conditions are as difficult in New York or Mobile as in Cardiff or Rio de Janeiro or the Persian Gulf.

USS AT WORK

No statistics, for example, can show the full value of a club such as that in arid, hot (summer temperature steadily around 120 degrees daily) Khorramshahr, Iran, where 15,582 men were welcomed in the latter part of 1943. The relatively cool, high-ceilinged brick building of the USS in this town is an Arabian Nights oasis to war-fatigued men. Seamen get cold American beverages, pretzels, sandwiches and other things at the USS club snack bar at U. S. prices. To a man putting in at such a port after an arduous voyage — without movies, radio, or entertainment



WARM AND SAFE

such as exists at Army camps — a cold drink in an attractive room seems heaven-sent.

At Noumea, New Caledonia, set in the midst of jungle and close to the Southwest Pacific fighting front, the new USS center in February, 1944, cared for 1,700 men. Coming in after long voyages, the men unexpectedly received cold drinks, American cigarettes, candies, showers, clean linens and a friendly greeting. They found electric refrigeration, electric fans, chewing gum, razor blades, a radio-phonograph, and magazines, newspapers and letter-writing materials. One of them pronounced the place a "near miracle."

ON THE FIRING LINE

Statistics, in short, would not tell the USS story unless each digit was understood to apply to an emergency situation, whether it refers to lodgings, food or medical aid. And "emergency" means so many things in different localities.



CLOSE HARMONY

USS is right on the firing line — Italy, New Guinea, India, United Kingdom — and its code signals fly a welcome to the men who are delivering arms for victory in North and South Africa, the Persian Gulf, New Hebrides, Hawaiian Islands, Caribbean and North and South America.

Just as the ships of the United States Merchant Marine have participated in every invasion, so merchant ships and their crews will be a part of the great armada which moves upon western Europe.

And USS will be there to serve them. Trained men skilled in the language of whatever country provides a bridgehead, are waiting in the United Kingdom to go into action. In the Far East, too, USS is rapidly expanding its facilities to meet the needs of merchant seamen as the war in that theatre intensifies.

More than 1,500,000 registrations have been recorded in the 105 USS facilities. This means many individual visits from the 125,000 merchant seamen who steer for the USS wherever their ships dock.



HOW IT HAPPENED

*Khorramshahr, Iran
(Persian Gulf Area)*

"A good percentage of the ships' crews will spend from five to ten days in the local hospital. The causes are many. Temperature in the sun may reach 180 degrees . . . Living conditions are very poor, and outside of the USS there is not a single place for the men to go . . . We have rooms available for the men that are awaiting assignments to ships, and we are setting up a mess for those on the beach."



Your Share

A contribution to the National War Fund makes you a guardian of the Victory Fleet — an active participant in the vital job of manning the life-lines from our war production sources to the fighting fronts.

A part of every dollar entrusted to the National War Fund helps to lift the chins, stiffen the determination of our merchant seamen. Your dollars, streaming through the National War Fund to its sharing agencies, spell recognition, appreciation for the merchant seamen's share in shortening the road to Victory.

*Join Up for Your Share
in Victory!*

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USS HEADQUARTERS, 39 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 6, N. Y.

USS ON SIX CONTINENTS

IN COOPERATION WITH
WAR SHIPPING ADMINISTRATION

USS-USA REST CENTERS

Oyster Bay, Long Island
Bay Ridge, Maryland
Gladstone, New Jersey
Pass Christian, Mississippi
Millbrae, California
Pacific Palisades, California
Sands Point, Long Island

PORT MEDICAL OFFICES

New York, New York
Baltimore, Maryland
Boston, Massachusetts
Houston, Texas
Los Angeles, California
Mobile, Alabama
New Orleans, Louisiana
Norfolk, Virginia
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
San Francisco, California
San Pedro, California
Seattle, Washington
Tampa, Florida

USS-USA OVERSEAS FACILITIES

Aden, Aden Protectorate
Alexandria, Egypt
Algiers, Algeria
Balboa, Canal Zone
Bandar Shahpur, Iran
Bari, Italy
Basra, Iraq
Beira, Portuguese East Africa
Bizerte, Tunisia
Bristol, England
Cairo, Egypt
Calcutta, India
Cape Town, South Africa
Cardiff, Wales
Casablanca, French Morocco
Colombo, Ceylon
Cristobal, Canal Zone
Durban, South Africa
Finschhafen, New Guinea
Glasgow, Scotland
Gourock, Scotland
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Honolulu, T. H.

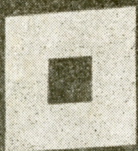
Horta, Azores
Hull, England
Karachi, India
Khorramshahr, Iran
Liverpool, England
London, England (2 units)
Lourenço Marques, Portuguese East Africa
Marshall Islands
Milne Bay, New Guinea
Mombasa, British East Africa
Naples, Italy (2 units)
Noumea, New Caledonia
Oran, Algeria
Paramaribo, Netherlands Guiana
Perth, Australia
Ponta Delgada, Azores
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Port of Spain, Trinidad
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
San Juan, Puerto Rico
San Nicholas, Aruba, N. W. I.
Southampton, England
Suva, Fiji Islands

USS FACILITIES IN U. S.

Baltimore, Maryland
Boston, Massachusetts (2 units)
Charleston, S. C. (2 units)
Galveston, Texas
Houston, Texas (2 units)
Mobile, Alabama
New Orleans, Louisiana (3 units)
New York, N. Y. (6 units)
Norfolk, Virginia (2 units)
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Port Arthur, Texas
Portland, Oregon (3 units)
San Francisco, California (2 units)
San Pedro, California (4 units)
Seattle, Washington (3 units)
Tampa, Florida
Wilmington, California
Wilmington, North Carolina

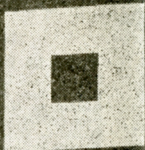
*Noumea, New Caledonia
(Coral Sea Area)*

*"Busy with 48 survivors of the S.S.
There were no casualties, but they were worn out
with the ordeal. We sent some to the dispensary
... As soon as the ice-box (a marvel for this
place!) was in operation, we passed the word to
the ships for the boys to drop in. About 60 came.
It makes a lot of difference in this place, giving
them a chance to get some cold drinks instead of
expensive and poisonous booze."*



SEAMEN'S

UNITED



SERVICE

USS *shares in the* NATIONAL WAR FUND

